



2006 Plant Sale

Thanks to everyone who ordered native plants from us this Spring. Approximately 13,000 native plants found new homes with 300 Clallam County families. Remember to keep those trees and shrubs well watered this spring and summer.

A special word of appreciation goes out to our 24 enthusiastic volunteers. Paul & Devin Beck, Karen & Lucy Bert, Phyllis Constanti, Karl Fikas, Steve Gilchrist, Lisa Gouveia, Merrill Jefferson, Carrie Kalina, Sonia Killian, Terry Kush, Stephen & Terri Lillquist, Susan & Arndt Lorenzen, Beth Loveridge, Janet Oja, Frank Ransom, Dorita Reed, Enid Russell, Kathy Wagoner, Mark Wendt, and Jack Young all worked hard to help us make the plant sale a success. We couldn't have done it without you!



Devin Beck, our youngest volunteer, shows Steve Gilchrist how to deliver a plant order to a waiting customer.

HATLER AND SMITH JOIN BOARD

Spring is a time of change, including here at Clallam Conservation District. Two of our long-time Board members were replaced this past month. Don Hatler unseated three-term incumbent Steve Marble in the March elections and Ben Smith was appointed by the Washington Conservation Commission to take the appointed position held by Walt Forsberg.

Don, a retired Sequim area resident, received 620 votes – more than any other conservation district board candidate in the entire state. Don had a career in development, manufacture and marketing of scientific instrumentation, as well as being the owner/operator of a small business. Although retired, Don is very active in many local organizations and manages a small, noncommercial farm where he raises miniature donkeys. His motivation to get on the Conservation District Board stems from his concerns about the state of our environment and prospects for the next generation.

Ben Smith is a fourth-generation Sequim-area farmer. He and his family manage a diversified farming operation that includes the largest dairy farm on the Olympic Peninsula. Ben also serves on the Highland Irrigation District Board and the Clallam County Agricultural Commission.

Ben takes the place of Walt Forsberg who served on the Board as a Supervisor or Associate Supervisor since February 1977. Walt will continue his dedicated service to the District as an Associate Supervisor.

Don and Ben join Joe Murray, Nash Huber and Bob Forde on the five-member Board of Supervisors. Each serves a three-year term of office without compensation.

The Board of Supervisors identifies local conservation priorities, sets goals and oversees the implementation of plans to protect soil, water, wildlife, and other renewable natural resources. The Board employs a staff of six and administers an annual budget estimated to be over \$2 million in 2006. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00PM at the Clallam Conservation District office. The meetings are open to the public.

A huge thank you to the volunteer polling officers for your hard work at the election. Bob Caldwell, Virginia Clark, Nancy Newman, RW Robinson, Tom Santos, John and Lelah Singhose, and Allen Wang. We appreciate all your help!

2005 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As one might expect during a drought year, water conservation dominated the list of accomplishments for 2005. The Conservation District helped irrigators conserve over two cubic feet per second (643 acre-feet for the year) of irrigation water to augment flows in the Dungeness River. With technical and financial assistance from the Conservation District, irrigators replaced 27,291 feet of open irrigation ditch with pipeline and constructed one reservoir. Well over half of the 2005 expenditures were for water conservation projects.

District staff recorded over 1,400 individual contacts with land users throughout Clallam County. Those contacts led to the development of ten comprehensive conservation plans addressing the conservation of renewable natural resources on 86 acres.

Other Accomplishments include the following:

- * 1,560 feet of streambank protected with livestock exclusion fencing
- * 47 acres of riparian area were protected
- * 1 barrier to fish passage was corrected
- * 1 stormwater pond installed
- * 1,200 feet of hedgerow installed
- * 9 farms implemented livestock manure management practices
- * Pasture management assistance provided on 68 acres
- * 154 individuals participated in workshops about farm stewardship
- * 159 individuals participated in workshops about water conservation
- * 156 individuals participated in workshops about natural landscaping
- * Assistance with soil testing provided for 59 soil tests
- * Conservation presentations made to 331 school children.



Seventh grade students at Robin Hill Farm Park taking notes about proper manure management.

Expenses for 2005 totaled \$1,210,577. Grants amounted to 94 percent of the revenues, 73 percent coming from the Washington Conservation Commission. Implementation of conservation practices accounted for 68 percent of the expenses. Employee wages and benefits accounted for 27 percent.

Visit our web site at <http://clallam.scc.wa.gov/> to view the entire 2005 Report of Accomplishments as well as the 2006 Plan of Work.



Before and after photos of a culvert replaced in Clallam Bay that opened up 0.37 miles of upstream fish habitat.



Jim and Robbie Mantooth breaking ground for their stormwater pond as Joe Murray, Mike Doherty, Richard Headrick and Steve Tharinger look on.

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Rainwater Harvesting Workshop

When: April 12th, from 6:00 to 8:00pm

Where: Peninsula College, Room J-47

Join us for a special presentation by regional rainwater-harvesting expert Tim Pope. Tim is president of Northwest Water Source and has been designing and installing rainwater catchment systems around the Puget Sound for over a decade. His presentation will cover the ins and outs of rainwater catchment systems for residential properties.

Call (360) 452-1912 ext.5 to reserve your spot.



Photo courtesy of harvestingwater.com

Spring Natural Landscaping Class

Clallam Conservation District, in partnership with Peninsula College, will teach a five-part series on natural landscaping this spring. Participants will learn basic design concepts, environmental considerations and principles of natural landscaping. The course includes a field trip to the Dungeness Recreation Area to learn about native plants in their natural environments.

The first class is Thursday, April 20th from 10-12 in Port Angeles. To register call Peninsula College at (360) 452-9277 or register on-line at http://www.pc.ctc.edu/community_education/

Landscaping with Native Plants Field Walk

When: Friday, April 21 or Saturday, April 22 from 1:00 to 4:00pm

Where: Dungeness Recreation Area

Participants will learn to identify over 30 native trees and shrubs, as well as their cultural requirements, habitat qualities, and ornamental attributes while walking the trails of the Dungeness Recreation Area. The field trip is free; however, pre-registration is required due to space limitations. To register please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 5.

Soil Testing

Spring is an excellent time to test your soil. Clallam Conservation District ships soil samples to the lab for testing on the **first** and **third Wednesdays** of each month. Total cost for shipping and lab analysis is \$16 per sample.

Low Impact Forestry Study for the Olympic Peninsula

Do you have more than 100 trees on your property? Do you care about the health and value of your forest? Are you concerned that you may not be doing all you can to promote and maintain the quality of your forest?

Olympic Shadow Forest Owners, a non-profit association of small forest landowners, in partnership with Clallam Conservation District, Washington State University and others will soon be conducting a study of small forest owners on the Olympic Peninsula. The survey is designed to find out what information, services and support landowners need to maintain their forests. This survey, in conjunction with one to identify what is available locally to meet those needs, is part of a broader initiative to make and keep small forest ownership a sustainable alternative and to prevent further loss of our private forests.

Regardless of whether you're planning to harvest trees someday or have other objectives, this study is important. It will provide you an opportunity to help shape the future of small-scale forestry on the Olympic Peninsula. In the next few months many of you will receive the survey. It's important that you fill it out and return it.

For additional information on the study or to volunteer for a landowner interview, please contact Bill Wheeler at the WSU Jefferson County Projects office in Quilcene, (360) 765-0815 or by e-mail at wsusouth@earthlink.net.

NO MUD, A HORSE OWNERS DREAM...

In 2003, Bill Jevne and Juanita Ramsey-Jevne, Five Acre School operators came to the Conservation District seeking help for their horse property. Five Acre School is located just east of the Dungeness Spit Recreation Area entrance, off Lotzgesell Road. The school's riding program uses Icelandic horses, a sturdy, versatile breed that originated when Vikings brought horses to Iceland in the ninth century.

The horses were confined in a large paddock (about 1 acre in size). The paddock was devoid of vegetation and prone to dusty conditions in the summer and mud in the winter. Bill and Juanita created "islands" of hogfuel for the horses to stand on during the muddy season.

District planner Jennifer Coyle-Bond guided a group of Five Acre School students through a problem-solving exercise that resulted in a new plan for the horse paddock. The group decided to reduce the confinement area to approximately 1/6 its size (60'x120') and convert the remaining confinement area to pasture.

The area was scraped free of organic material and geotextile fabric was installed. Six inches of three-quarter minus basalt rock was placed and compacted on top of the fabric. Runoff from the confinement area is directed into the newly planted pasture.

Jennifer recently spoke with Bill Jevne to get an update on the project (2 ½ years after installation):

"How is your graveled confinement area working today?"

Bill - "It's working great. The horses are happier and healthier. This is a permanent fix, unlike the woodchips, which we had to continually replenish. The area is relatively easy to clean, the gravel falls through the manure fork."

"What challenges have you had with the area?"

Bill - "Not long after the area was built, our vet and farrier noticed that the horses' frogs (fleshy area found in the bottom of the hoof) were not coming into contact with the ground, affecting blood circulation and limiting hoof growth. Our veterinarian, Dr. Christin Finn, also has a gravel sacrifice area on her farm and had the same problem with her horses. She recommended that we bring in a top footing of pea gravel, which moves more with the hoof and increases blood circulation. We applied about 2 inches of pea gravel and have not had a problem since."

"What kind of maintenance does the area require?"

Bill - "The sacrifice area needs continual maintenance, especially in areas where the horses congregate. One of our horses paws when waiting to be fed, so we are constantly filling in holes."

"Any advice for other livestock owners facing a similar situation or thinking of making improvements?"

Bill - "Utilize natural slope to your advantage and try to get as much slope as possible for enhanced drainage. As a horse-owner, you'll sleep better and feel better about your horses' health. The vets and farrier love it too!"

If you are interested in installing a mud-free confinement area the Conservation District has both technical and financial assistance available for landowners in Clallam County. Call (360) 452-1912 ext. 109 for more information.



A smaller confinement area was created with appropriate mud-free footing. The old confinement area can be seen in the background as bare dirt and mud.



A happy horse lounging in the now mud-free confinement area with a new shelter. The bare dirt of the old confinement area is now a productive pasture.



Rain barrels were installed to capture roof runoff water to use for drinking water for the horses.

FARM INVENTORY

Clallam Conservation District was recently awarded a grant from the Department of Ecology to expand farm planning and stewardship efforts previously limited to the Dungeness watershed county wide.

As part of this project, district planners will be conducting a farm inventory from Port Angeles west. The goal of the inventory is to collect information on farm numbers and locations, and to identify farm operators who might be interested in receiving assistance from the District.

Workshop announcements on a variety of livestock-keeping topics, such as reducing mud and growing healthy pastures, will be sent to farm operators identified through the farm inventory. Financial assistance will be available for practices that protect water quality, such as fencing livestock away from streams, ditches and wetlands. Contact Jennifer or Meghan at 452-1912 ext. 109 for more information on this project.



Cattle in Clallam Bay enjoying the mud-free gravel footing around their watering trough.

*"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under
whose shade you do not expect to sit."
- Nelson Henderson*

PORT WILLIAMS RESERVOIR

Sequim Prairie Tri Irrigation Association's new reservoir is ready for business. After over four year's of planning the project was recently completed in time for this irrigation season. The 4.1 million gallon reservoir will enable the irrigation company to save as much as 3 cubic feet per second of water that previously leaked out of the ditches and flowed out into the salt water. The saved water will remain in the Dungeness River.

The project serves 670 acres in the Port Williams area, over 95 percent of which is commercial farmland. The reservoir is located on two acres of land donated by Gary and Janice Smith. Where eight irrigation ditches previously dumped irrigation tailwaters into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, pipelines now deliver water to the farm fields. Approximately 16,000 feet of open ditches were replaced with pipelines.



A central pumping station located at the reservoir has replaced numerous pumps that had been in the ditches throughout the 670-acre area. The modern, energy-efficient pumping station will significantly reduce energy requirements.

The project was engineered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Funding for construction came from the following sources: Clallam Conservation District, Washington Conservation Commission (Irrigation Efficiencies Grant), Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the Sequim Prairie Tri Irrigation Association. Gary Smith contributed hundreds of hours managing this complex project. The total cost of the project was \$1,069,700.

Janice Smith said they hope that more reservoirs can be constructed for farmland irrigation in the Dungeness Valley.

Conservation Sponsors

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If you are interested in becoming a newsletter sponsor, for \$50 per year your name or the name of your business will be printed four times in the sponsor section of the newsletter, or for \$100 per year, your company business card will also be printed once a year.

The Conservation News is published quarterly and is currently reaching over 1,700 mailboxes and is available for review on our website. Your support will help us reach more people interested in getting involved in local conservation efforts.

For information on becoming a sponsor, please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 5.

Visit our website at <http://clallam.scc.wa.gov>

Clallam Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at the USDA Service Center, 1601 E. Front St., Bldg/Suite A in Port Angeles.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Murray, Chair
Nash Huber, Vice-Chair
Ben Smith, Member
Bob Forde, Member
Don Hatler, Member

DISTRICT STAFF

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District Manager: Joe Holtrop
Administrative Assistant: Janell Kiphart

Conservation Planners:

Jennifer Coyle-Bond, Meghan Peacock,
and Clea Rome

Engineering Tech: Laurie Yarnes

CREP Planner: Luke Cherney

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jim Poffel
(360) 452-8994 ext. 101

Want to help us save a tree??
Our newsletter is available in email format, so if you would like to start receiving the electronic version of our newsletter, give us a call at (360) 452-1912 ext. 5 or send an email to ccd-info@wa.nacdn.net



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- ⇒ Upcoming Events
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